

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Archivists will be “Reflecting Mississippi” during Archives Month this October

COLUMBUS, Miss.-Through the month of October, archives and repositories across Mississippi will host various events and activities in promotion of Archives Month. Archives Month is a way to raise public awareness by calling attention to the role various organizations play in preserving historical and cultural records.

This year’s theme, “Reflecting Mississippi” allows archives to showcase their multifaceted collections that represent an historical and ever evolving state.

Organizations are participating in a variety of ways from hosting exhibits to conducting tours. Listed below are just some of the events across the state planned for Archives Month this year.

Society of Mississippi Archivist President Mona K. Vance said, “Archives Month is a great way for the public to learn more about the many people and institutions that work diligently to preserve this state’s historical treasures.”

Archives Month in Mississippi is promoted by the Society of Mississippi Archivists (SMA) and sponsored by the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board. The Society of Mississippi Archivists celebrates the important work of preserving the cultural heritage of Mississippi and serves as a point of information for people interested in the rich documentary history of the state. To learn more about SMA visit www.msarchivists.org or visit them on Facebook.

The Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) provides professional assistance, resources, and programming to support the preservation and accessibility of the state’s invaluable historical documents and records. It serves as the central advisory board for historical records planning and project assistance in Mississippi. For further information on MHRAB go to www.mdah.state.ms.us/admin/shrab/shrab.php.

Archives are locations where collections and records of historical value are maintained, preserved, and made accessible to the public. They may be located in historic societies, academic or public libraries, court houses, corporations, or governmental entities.

Mississippi’s statewide participation is an extension of the national celebration of American Archives Month hosted by the Society of American Archivists.

The first celebration of Archives Week can be traced to the Archives Round Table of Metropolitan New York in New York City in 1989. More information on archivists and

American Archives Month can be found at the Society of American Archivists website at www.archivists.org.

For more information on Archives Month events, contact Mona K. Vance with the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library at (662) 329-5304.

Archives Month Events 2010:

African American Military History Museum (Hattiesburg)

- Presents an exhibit titled *The Archaeology of the WWII African American Barracks* on display October 1-31. The exhibit, co-sponsored by the Mississippi National Guard, will include dozens of never before seen artifacts excavated from the WWII African American Barracks at Camp Shelby along with supporting historic photographs and area maps. The opening reception will be held October 1 from 6-8pm.

For more information contact Brooke Cruthirds at 601-450-1942.

Biloxi Public Library, Local History and Genealogy Department (Biloxi):

- The 4th Annual Old Biloxi Cemetery Tour to be held October 26 at 5:30 p.m. Step back into the past with a tour of headstones dating back to the 1800's, some very famous people rest here, graveside reenactments, and refreshments! The event is sponsored by the City of Biloxi.

For more information contact Kay Miller with Main Street Biloxi at 228-435-6339 or Jane Shambra, Local History & Genealogy Librarian, at 228-435-4613.

Columbus-Lowndes Public Library (Columbus)

- An exhibit titled *Sam Hairston: His Baseball Legacy in Birmingham and the Major Leagues* featuring memorabilia from both Negro League and Major League baseball. The materials are from the collection of enthusiast Clarence Watkins. The exhibit is in conjunction with a county-wide celebration of Sam Hairston (1920-1997), Negro League and Major League baseball player who was born in Crawford, MS.

For additional information contact Mona K. Vance at 662-329-5304.

Delta State University Archives and Museum (Cleveland)

- Hosting the exhibit *BBQ Joints: Stories and Secret Recipes from the Barbeque Belt* from September 16-November 26. Opening reception on September 16 at 5:30 will include a lecture by author David Gelin. In conjunction with this exhibit other events include:
 - Lunch and Learn with artist Amy Evans Streeter, October 5, 12 noon.
 - Showing of the movie *Fried Green Tomatoes*, October 6, 7pm.
 - *The History and Politics of BBQ: Lecture presentation by Charles Westmoreland*, October 13, 12 noon.

- Showcasing the exhibit *History at Play: Delta State's Sports & Recreation Programs* on display from September 1-December 17. This exhibit highlights a selection of courses, programs and special events that Delta State University students have had the opportunity in which to participate through the Health, Physical Education and Recreation division.

For more information contact Emily Jones at 662-846-4781.

Katrina Research Center at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Library (Long Beach)

- Hosting an exhibit titled *Life in a Snapshot* showing September 23-October 29. It includes forty photographs selected from 250 submissions by USM students, faculty, and alumni highlighting the various perceptions of the human experience. The exhibit is sponsored by the USM Anthropology Department.

For additional information contact Shugana Williams at 228-214-3423.

Millsaps College, Millsaps-Wilson Library (Jackson)

- Two exhibits running from October through December that commemorate the October 7th inauguration of Dr. Rob Pearigen as eleventh president of Millsaps College.
 - “A Tradition of Excellence in Presidential Leadership”
 - “Documenting the Past: Images and Artifacts from Millsaps’ Inaugurations”

For more information contact Debra McIntosh at 601-974-1077.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History or MDAH (Jackson)

- History Is Lunch
Wednesday, October 6, 12-1pm

Hunter Cole talks about his suspenseful new book, *The Legs Murder Scandal*. Cole conducted research in the MDAH collections about this sensational crime from the 1930s and provides the reader with clarity in this outlandish, harrowing, and intriguing story.

- Workshops
The Society of Mississippi Archivists and the Archival Training Collaborative have joined the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) in sponsoring several workshops this fall:

Documenting Communities and Organizations (Jackson) October 8

Preservation of Books and Archival Materials (Vicksburg) October 19

Archival Digitization: Practical Solutions on a Budget (Jackson) November 9

To register or receive more information, please call Melanie Collins at 601-576-6810 or visit <http://mdah.state.ms.us/admin/mhrab/programs.php>.

- *Personal Treasures*

Thursday, October 7, 12-4pm

Held at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, Columbus

The public is invited to bring books, papers, photographs, and maps to MDAH professionals for expert advice on the age and origin of the item and its conservation and care. *Personal Treasures* is free and open to the public. Monetary appraisals are not available at this event. This year artifacts will not be included.

For more information contact Trey Porter at 601-576-6809.

- Exhibits

- *Picturing America*

- Tells the story of America through its art. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) developed this exhibit as a tool to help teach American history. The *Picturing America* initiative and the related images and teacher resource book and activities may be reviewed by visiting

- www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov.

- *Reflecting Mississippi*

- Provides companion images to selected images in the *Picturing America* initiative that explore themes related to Mississippi history. The images are from the collections of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and may be appreciated for both their historic and artistic merit. Sixteen Mississippi images, accompanied by suggested teaching activities, are available at

- www.mdah.state.ms.us/reflecting-ms.zip.

For information about scheduling a speaker and/or borrowing a framed set of *Picturing America* prints, the *Picturing America: Teachers Resource Book*, and a framed set of six of the *Reflecting Mississippi* prints, contact David Morgan, Mississippi Humanities Council, at 601-432-6752 or email david@mhc.state.ms.

Mississippi State University Libraries (Starkville)

- Present an exhibit *Archives without Borders: Exploring the World through Archival Collections* to be housed at Mississippi State University Libraries, Special Collections and Congressional and Political Research Center/Ulysses S. Grant Collection

For additional information contact Mattie Abraham at 662-325-3848.

**University of Mississippi Department of Archives & Special Collections
(Oxford)**

- Kicks off the year-long exhibit *'This Fiery Trial': An Exhibit on Mississippi and the Civil War* that utilizes materials from the departments Civil War collections to give an overview of the Civil War. In particular there are cases devoted to secession, 1861-1865, Reconstruction, the University of Mississippi and the Civil War, the Lost Cause movement and memory of the war, death, and music.

For more information contact Dr. Jennifer Ford at 662-915-7408.